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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

OTTAWA (March 16, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced appointments to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

The new appointee to the Board is Mr. Rick Edjericon, from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. This appointment is effective immediately. As well, current members Mr. Jerry Loomis and Mr. John Ondrack have been reappointed to the Board, effective March 15, 2007.

"I am pleased to welcome Mr. Edjericon. He has been an active leader in the community and I have full confidence that his abilities will be a valuable addition to the critical work undertaken by this Board. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is an essential aspect of responsible development in the NWT," said Minister Prentice. "The significant qualifications and experience of Mr. Ondrack and Mr. Loomis will continue to benefit the Board. I am delighted that they have agreed to carry on with this important work."

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is the main organization established to carry out environmental assessment and environmental impact review in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. These measures help protect the environment and enhance the social, economic and cultural well-being of Mackenzie Valley residents and of all Canadians. It provides Northerners with a vehicle to participate in the environmental assessment decision- making process.

The Review Board is currently conducting eight environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley. The proposed developments undergoing environmental impact assessments range from small mineral exploration programs to large, multi-year mining operations.

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Biographical notes

Mr. Richard (Rick) Edjericon

Mr. Edjericon is the President of Edjericon and Associates, a consulting firm. He has worked on a number of projects in a variety of capacities. Some of his clients include the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Government of Northwest Territories, the Aboriginal Summit, the Giant Mine Remediation Project and the Talston Hydro Project.

Mr. Edjericon was elected Chief of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in 1999, a position he held until 2003.

Prior to that, Mr. Edjericon worked as a carpenter in Yellowknife. In addition, he has served as a district project coordinator for GNWT Housing Corporation, and Housing Manager for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Mr. Edjericon is a graduate of programs at both Thebacha College in Forth Smith, and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton.

Mr. Edjericon has coached both minor hockey and baseball teams in his spare time. He has also been a proud and active supporter of the North American Indigenous Games.

John Ondrack

Mr. Ondrack is currently the General Manager of Kirk Computer Systems Ltd. in Yellowknife where he has worked for the past five years.

Mr. Ondrack is an administration management graduate from NAIT and has worked as an administration and financial manager for PCL, Clark Builders and for Avery Cooper & Co. Before coming to the Northwest Territories in 1989, Mr. Ondrack worked for CIBC as a commercial lender and had also operated his own metal fabrication plant in Edmonton.

Mr. Ondrack is a past president of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, past vice-president of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, past president of NTnet Society (responsible for bringing the Internet to the NWT) and has served on the Board of the NWT Construction Association. He is currently a director and co-chair of the Akaitcho Business Development Corporation, as well as a member of the Business Development Committee of the NWT Metis Development Corporation Ltd.

Jerry Loomis

Mr. Loomis is a Norman Wells businessman with several holdings in both

Norman Wells and Edmonton. He currently operates Norman Wells Transportation Ltd., a vehicle rental agency and gas station. Mr. Loomis is the past owner and operator of the Mackenzie Valley Hotel.

Mr. Loomis worked for Imperial Oil Ltd. as an industrial accountant throughout Alberta and in Norman Wells for 11 years before leaving the company to start his own business. He operated the Mackenzie Valley Hotel for almost 30 years before selling it two years ago.

Mr. Loomis is a past president of the Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce and the NWT Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the NWT Labour Standards Board since 1993 and is currently the chair of the Board. Mr. Loomis' other activities include sitting as the NWT director on the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT).

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